



VA North Texas Health Care System

The right choice for health care

Public Affairs

Venture

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Sky Diving at 92 Years Young

Harry Thompson celebrated his 92nd birthday recently. You may think his family took him out for dinner at a nice restaurant, or maybe they stayed at home for a simple quiet party. You better guess again...

Thompson, former Prisoner of War during WWII, landed softly and smoothly after sky diving in Greenville near the Audie Murphy museum recently. He jumped tandem with an instructor from 10,500 feet to his daughter, anxiously waiting his return to the ground.

Thompson was a Chief Warrant Officer in the Army during WWII. He served with the 924th Field Artillery Battalion in the 99th Infantry Division and was captured December 17, 1944, in Bulligen, Belgium, when the Germans broke through American lines during the Ardennes Offensive, better known as the Battle of the Bulge. Thompson spent 136 days in several prison camps but was liberated in May 1945 from Oflag XIIIB, Hammelburg, a prison camp for American officers – the same prison camp as Gen. Patton's son-in-law.

Thompson recalled being put in front of a firing squad as a POW, but a German officer stopped it and stripped him of his Army uniform in hopes the Germans could infiltrate American forces.

When asked if he would jump again, Thompson said he would – with his daughter's permission of course. He said, "After surviving a firing squad as a POW in Germany during World War II, jumping from an airplane was no big deal."

Mr. Thompson receives care at VANTHCS in Bonham and is thought to be the oldest former POW ever to sky dive!



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Betty Bolin Brown

From the Director

Happy hot Texas Summer!! The mercury is rising and so are the demands on our resources and workload. It seems we need to clone ourselves to get everything accomplished. It may be a hard balance sometimes to prioritize what has to be done with what may not be considered emergent. However you manage your 'things to do' list, let's remember the old saying, "To whom much is given, much is required." VANTHCS is supported by over 4,000 dedicated employees who bring his/her individual talents with them to work every day - and I appreciate all you do to make the team at VANTHCS the best it can be.



VANTHCS was best in VISN 17 recently with over 80% participating in the All Employee Survey. Ice cream socials were held for Dallas and Bonham employees while those at Fort Worth Outpatient Clinic enjoyed

a pizza party. Thanks to everyone who took time to give your opinions which indicate praise, recognition and customer service are three main areas for improvement.

Dallas



Bonham



**Thank
You!!**



FWOPC



Care Coordination/Home Telehealth Program

CCHT is a new program to assess and monitor patients in their home. Clinical information is gathered in the home and relayed to the Care Coordinator at VANTHCS using a **Health Buddy** to assure the patient is receiving the right care at the right place and at the right time.



The **Health Buddy** functions as an interface for secure communication and data collection between patients and their healthcare providers. Data is collected to give healthcare providers important and timely information about a patient's chronic condition—right from the comfort of the patient's home. The **Health Buddy** appliance plugs into a patient's telephone line and electrical outlet. It displays a series of questions about vital signs, symptoms and behaviors which

the patient answers by pushing one of the four blue buttons. Pictured left is Virginia Villarreal, RN, demonstrating the **Health Buddy** to Patient James Shields. The entire process takes only a few minutes.

The CCHT program which will greatly benefit patients who frequently have hospital admissions, urgent care visits and unscheduled visits to the clinic. CCHT will also reduce the incidence of clinical complications and the use of resources these complications can consume.



Meet Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Voelker. These newlyweds were married recently at Dallas VAMC on 7B. Mr. Voelker is in poor health, and when the staff found out about the wedding, they pitched in where they could and arranged a conference room for a simple ceremony. It was a combined effort from Mr. Voelker's medical team, case manager, and 7B Nursing staff who coordinated a reception complete with cake, punch, nuts and mints – they even decorated Mr. Voelker's wheelchair, and the ceremony was performed by Father Timothy Gollob in Chaplain Service! Congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple!



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***Have any news? Please submit
features or story ideas to Penny
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You Are VA North Texas Health Care System

You are what people see when they arrive here.
Yours are the eyes they look into when they're frightened and lonely.

Yours are the voices people hear when they ride the elevator,
when they try to sleep, and when they try to forget their problems.

You are what they hear on their way to their appointments that could affect their destinies.
And what they hear after their appointments.



Yours are the comments people hear when you think they can't.
You are the intelligence and caring that people hope they will find here.

If you are noisy, so is VA North Texas Health Care System.
If you are rude, so is VA North Texas Health Care System.
If you are wonderful, so is VA North Texas Health Care System.

People know what they see, hear, and experience.
And so we have a stake in your attitude and the collective attitude
of everyone who works at VA North Texas Health Care System.

We are judged by your performance.
We are the care you give, the attention you pay, the courtesies you extend.



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